

Collecting and sampling insects

by Ian Endersby

Publisher: *The Entomological Society of Victoria*, 2009. 28 pages, paperback; line drawings. ISBN 978 0 9805802 1 1. RRP \$10 (\$8 to members of *Entomological Society*)

If you have ever wanted to form a collection of insects but didn't know how to go about it, this handy little book is for you. In straightforward and clear prose, the author provides the aspiring amateur entomologist with the basic detail of how to capture the widest range of insects in the most common situations in which they are found.

The book opens with a brief Introduction that sets out the reasons for collecting, and the different needs for qualitative as opposed to quantitative sampling. This latter subject is addressed also, in more detail, at the end of the section on aquatic sampling. The interesting and salutary point is made at the beginning of the Introduction that there should be some positive purpose behind taking an insect's life. This reviewer was so struck by this point that he pondered long and hard on whether forming a collection of beetles was sufficient grounds for killing these insects.

In the pages following the Introduction, which make up the bulk of the work, the author sets out the various methods used in collecting entomological specimens, devoting separate sections to the range of techniques involved, under the headings of direct methods and intercept methods. These sections are followed by an explanation of the different strategies appropriate to sampling in aquatic situations, and in litter and soil.

With samples in hand, the budding entomologist is then guided through the steps of how to document the collected creatures — labelling, marking and, if necessary, preparing voucher specimens.

Throughout the book, each of these techniques and strategies is accompanied by a line drawing, illustrating the equipment that has been referred to. The book concludes with a short list of references relating to the collection and preparation of entomological specimens.



Collecting and Sampling Insects

Ian Endersby

This unassuming little work should be of invaluable assistance to naturalists, young and old, who are interested in focusing their collecting attention on those families within the animal kingdom that are the most numerous, the insects.

Gary Presland
History and Philosophy of Science
School of Philosophy, Anthropology and Social Inquiry
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010